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DEC 22 2004

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/823,459  
Applicant : Adams et al.  
Filed : March 30, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 2665  
Examiner : Toan D. Nguyen

Confirmation No. 5720

Docket No. : 42390.P10679  
Customer No. : 08791

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed on September 22, 2004, with the three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 22, 2004, kindly reconsider the Application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.